Projections of Growth Rate

3443. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:

SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the reported statement of the PM that even with the most optimistic projections, the average growth rate in the next few years is not likely to cross seven per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for this pessimism; and

(c) whether Government have any special proposal for a higher growth rate and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The Prime Minister while addressing the meeting of the Planning Commission to discuss the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Plan had indicated that the economy was unlikely to cross the 7 per cent growth rate compared to the annual average growth rate of 8 per cent envisaged during the Tenth plan period (2002-07). The Prime Minister had indicated that employment generation and agricultural growth were unsatisfactory. He emphasized that the focus of planning needed to be changed and policies made conducive to encourage the private sector to play a role in infrastructure development. He felt the need to incentivise the private sector to invest in physical infrastructure through public-private partnerships.

The Union Budget for 2005-06 has proposed a number of initiatives such as emphasis on enhanced public investment, diversifying agriculture, promotion of public-private partnership for infrastructure development, liberalisation of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and facilitating growth in industries and services sector through an enabling policy environment. The various measures are expected to have a favourable impact on the growth of the economy.

Provision of residential telephones to the Officers

†3444. SHRI R. S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government provide residential telephones to the officers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government take over such telephones

†Ortginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.